



## State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Mississippi 2021



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$451,373
Forest Legacy	\$25,000
Forest Stewardship	\$234,446
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$85,000
State Fire Assistance	\$1,355,249
Urban and Community Forestry	\$225,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$296,330
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,672,398</b>

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

### Program Goals

- The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Mississippi, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of forestlands and rural economies. Emphasis is on forest sustainability and the production of commodity and amenity values such as wildlife, water quality, and environmental services.

### Key Issues

- There is a need to develop sustainable urban forestry programs in Mississippi communities and to educate the public on how trees can conserve energy.
- The Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) is striving to expand its firefighting capacity by providing Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs) with grant funding for wildland firefighting equipment. We also provide VFDs with equipment acquired through the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program and the Firefighter Property Program (FFP).

### Forest Facts and Accomplishments

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2020 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	2,967,297	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	40,960
Acres of Forest Land	19,204,328	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	21,022
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	15,340,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	8,312
Number of NIPF Landowners	370,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	100
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	30
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	19,200,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	4,357
Number of Rural Fire Departments	755	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	1,994
Cities and Towns	298	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	38
Forest Based Employment	69,445	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	830,920
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	2	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	1,924
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	29,244,251		

## Program Highlights

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

State Fire Assistance provides funding to support firefighting resources throughout Mississippi. The Federal Excess Personal Property Program and the Firefighter Property Program allow us to acquire and place fire equipment in rural communities statewide. In FY20, these programs issued 31 vehicles and 20 other pieces of wildland firefighting equipment, with an estimated value of \$3.21 million. Fifty Volunteer Fire Assistance grants, with a total value of \$204,980, were also awarded to Mississippi's Volunteer Fire Departments.

### **Forest Health Protection**

The MFC provides forest pest detection, evaluation, and control recommendations on private, urban, and non-federal public forestland in Mississippi. The MFC continued to partner with the U.S. Forest Service to administer a Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program, which aimed to teach private forest landowners the benefits of thinning to reduce the risk of southern pine beetle hazards. At the end of FY19, southern pine beetle activity decreased on National Forest land in Mississippi. While the MFC has active detection and control programs for kudzu and cogongrass, invasive plants continue to impact Mississippi's forest ecosystems. In FY20, the MFC treated 377 acres for cogongrass.

### **Forest Stewardship**

The MFC continues to promote natural resource planning on private forestland. In FY20, 108,476 acres were under forest management plans.

### **Landowner Assistance**

The Mississippi Forestry Commission offers a variety of services, programs, and resources to private forest landowners. The Forest Resource Development Program distributed \$1.93 million in cost-share funding to private forest landowners and 82,815 acres were regenerated or improved in FY20.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

The MFC provides assistance and training to urban areas in developing community forestry programs. The MFC, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, is able to aid in the development of long-term, self-sustaining urban and community forestry programs through the Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant Program. Financial assistance grants provided in FY20 totaled \$30,775.

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## Contact Information



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